

Message Text

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ORIGIN SS-25

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M: SRGAMMON

SCA- MISS WATSON

S/ S- MR. MILLER

EUR/ WE- MR. VINE

NEA - MR. SISCO

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P R 030008 Z APR 73 ZFF5

FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO AMEMBASSY TRIPOLI PRIORITY

INFO AMEMBASSY ROME

WHITE HOUSE

USDEL SAN CLEMENTE

USINT CAIRO BY POUCH

S E C R E T STATE 060653

EXDIS - NOFORN - TOSEC 82 - ZFF SAN CLEMENTE ONLY

E. O. 11652: XGDS-3

TAGS: PFOR, LY, US

SUBJECT: CONTINGENCY FOR BREAK IN RELATIONS

WHITE HOUSE PASS TO SECRETARY ROGERS IN SAN CLEMENTE

REF: TRIPOLI 352

1. DEPARTMENT APPRECIATES YOUR TIMELY VIEWS ON SUBJECT IN
REFTEL. IN CASE OF A BREAK, WE CONCUR THAT THE MOST
DESIRABLE LEVEL OF REPRESENTATION IN LIBYA WOULD BE IN
DESCENDING ORDER OF PREFERENCE, (1) FULLY ACCREDITED
CONSULATE GENERAL; (2) AMERICAN- STAFFED US INTERESTS
SECTION; (3) REPRESENTATION OF US INTERESTS BY A THIRD
COUNTRY EMBASSY ACTING AS A PROTECTING POWER. LARG' S
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WILLINGNESS TO PERMIT ESTABLISHMENT OF A CONSULATE GENERAL NO DOUBT WILL DEPEND ON THE CIRCUMSTANCES OF A DIPLOMATIC BREAK. IF BREAK RESULTED FROM LIBYA' S MERGER WITH EGYPT, CONSULATE GENERAL MIGHT BE ACCEPTABLE TO THE NEW " UNITED ARAB REPUBLIC." IF MISSION CLOSED BEFORE THEN AS A RESULT DIPLOMATIC CONFRONTATION, LARG MIGHT INSIST ON COMPLETE TERMINATION OF AN OFFICIAL US PRESENCE. IN THIS CASE, WHETHER LARG WOULD PERMIT US OFFICIALS TO REMAIN UNDER AN INTERESTS SECTION ARRANGEMENT MIGHT DEPEND ON WHETHER IT THOUGHT ITS OWN INTERESTS REQUIRED LIBYAN OFFICIALS IN THE US.

2. WHILE EXACT CIRCUMSTANCES OF A BREAK CANNOT BE PRE- DICTED, FOLLOWING CONTINGENCY GUIDANCE HAS BEEN DEVELOPED. HOWEVER, WITH RESPECT TO ANY OF FOLLOWING, YOU REQUESTED TO SEEK PRIOR INSTRUCTIONS FROM DEPT. IF AT ALL POSSIBLE.

A. IF CHARGE IS CALLED TO MFA TO RECEIVE WORD OF BREAK, HE SHOULD REQUEST WRITTEN NOTIFICATION OF DECISION. HE SHOULD EXPRESS REGRET OVER LARG' S ACTION AND INDICATE USG HAS ALWAYS VALUED DIPLOMATIC CHANNEL TO LARG AS WAY OF FACILITATING FRANK EXCHANGE OF VIEWS AND CORRECTING POSSIBLE MISUNDERSTANDINGS. LARG DECISION PARTICULARLY REGRETTABLE AT TIME WHEN USG IS IMPROVING COMMUNICATIONS WITH OTHER GOVERNMENTS, INCLUDING SOME WITH WHICH IT HAS HAD SERIOUS DIFFERENCES IN PAST. THIS REGRET IS INCREASED BY OUR RECOLLECTION OF HISTORIC US IDENTIFICATION WITH LIBYAN INDEPENDENCE AND ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT.

B. CONSISTENT WITH FOREGOING, CHARGE SHOULD ASK LARG TO CONSIDER ADVANTAGES TO BOTH GOVERNMENTS OF CONTINUING TO MAINTAIN CONTACT. CONTINUED PRESENCE OF NEARLY 3,000 AMERICANS IN LIBYA INTIMATELY ASSOCIATED WITH SOUND OPERATION OF COUNTRY' S MAJOR INDUSTRY WOULD ARGUE FOR SUCH ARRANGEMENT, SINCE THESE AMERICANS WOULD VIEW COMPLETE DEPARTURE OF US OFFICIAL PRESENCE WITH CONCERN. SHOULD LARG AGREE TO THIS SUGGESTION, USG, IN TURN, WOULD BE PREPARED TO AGREE TO CONTINUED LIBYAN REPRESENTATION IN THE US, WHICH COULD FACILITATE LARG ASSISTANCE TO THE MORE THAN 700 LIBYAN NATIONALS, PRINCIPALLY STUDENTS, NOW IN US.

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C. IF MFA ACCEPTS CHARGE' S PROPOSAL, OR INDICATES

WILLINGNESS TO REFER IT TO RCC FOR DECISION, CHARGE SHOULD ASK THAT EMBASSY OFFICE BE PERMITTED TO CONTINUE NORMAL OPERATIONS ON PROVISIONAL BASIS UNTIL DEFINITIVE ARRANGEMENTS FOR FUTURE RELATIONS BETWEEN BOTH GOVERNMENTS HAVE BEEN SETTLED. IN ADDITION,

(1) CHARGE SHOULD STATE US PREFERENCE IS FOR REPRESENTATION THROUGH CONSULATE GENERAL.

(2) IF THIS PROPOSAL DEFINITELY REJECTED, CHARGE SHOULD PROPOSE ESTABLISHMENT OF US- STAFFED INTERESTS SECTION, SUCH AS THOSE US NOW HAS IN CAIRO, ALGIERS, AND BAGHDAD.

D. IF MFA DEFINITELY REJECTS PROPOSAL FOR INTERESTS SECTION, CHARGE SHOULD EXPRESS REGRET AND REQUEST MFA GRANT SUFFICIENT TIME, E. G., THIRTY DAYS, TO PERMIT EMBASSY TO WIND UP ITS AFFAIRS AND FACILITATE ORDERLY DEPARTURE OF PERSONNEL AND DISPOSAL OF PROPERTY. CHARGE SHOULD INDICATE RECIPROCAL COURTESY WOULD BE ACCORDED TO

LIBYAN EMBASSY WASHINGTON.

3. FYI ONLY: UNDER CONTINGENCY PLANNING MADE SOMETIME AGO, WE CONCLUDED THAT ITALY WOULD BE THE MOST DESIRABLE COUNTRY TO ASK TO SERVE AS OUR PROTECTING POWER, SHOULD THAT BE REQUIRED, ESPECIALLY IF AMERICANS WERE ALLOWED TO REMAIN TO STAFF AN INTERESTS SECTION. OUR RESPECTIVE NATIONAL INTERESTS IN LIBYA DO NOT CONFLICT, AND ITALY'S RELATIONS WITH LIBYA ARE GOOD RELATIVE TO THOSE OF MOST OTHER WESTERN COUNTRIES. OUR SECOND CHOICE WOULD BE SPAIN, ESPECIALLY IN CASE THE LIBYAN MERGER WITH EGYPT IS CONSUMMATED, SINCE SPAIN IS ALREADY OUR PROTECTING POWER IN EGYPT. OTHER COUNTRIES WHICH MIGHT SERVE AS OUR PROTECTING POWER, IN DESCENDING ORDER OF PREFERENCE, ARE TURKEY, WEST GERMANY, AND FRANCE. WE WOULD RULE OUT GREECE FOR NOW (WHICH WOULD OTHERWISE BE AN EXCELLENT CHOICE) BECAUSE ELEMENTS OF THE SIXTH FLEET ARE BASED THERE, AND BECAUSE OF SENSITIVITIES ARISING FROM RECONNAISSANCE FLIGHT. END FYI.

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4. FOR ROME: NATURALLY WE WILL CONSULT WITH GOVERNMENTS BEFORE MAKING ANY FINAL DECISION ON PROTECTING POWER. FOREGOING MESSAGE IS SOLEY FOR CONTINGENCY PURPOSES. YOUR COMMENTS REQUESTED BUT WE DO NOT WISH CONTACT ITALIANS AT THIS TIME. RUSH

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*** Current Classification *** SECRET

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